

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANK YOU, BARBARA BOWES,  
FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—Barbara Bowes, my district coordinator—for everything she's done for me and my constituents in the 16 years that she has worked in my office.

During the last 16 years, Barbara has handled difficult tasks with ease and efficiency—and handled impossible tasks with only slightly less ease and efficiency.

When the Houston Ship Channel was in my congressional district, Federal maritime and environmental officials often came to Houston for inspection trips or to hold public hearings. Invariably, one or more helicopters would magically appear to take me and the visiting dignitaries on an inspection tour over the Channel, or above some Superfund site. Only later did I realize that it was Barbara, not God, that somehow or other—and I still haven't figured out how exactly she did it—made those helicopters appear.

Barbara has worked closely with my Washington, DC, scheduler to arrange events in my district. She has scheduled all of my 569 town meetings, as well as several special seminars held over the years. And she has represented me at countless meetings that I was unable to attend. In short, Barbara's official job description is as dynamic and flexible as Barbara herself.

It's impossible to explain what Barbara's exact responsibilities are only because I've never asked her to do the same thing two days in a row. But to borrow a phrase, when something absolutely, positively needs to get done, more often than not, it's to Barbara that I turn. I trust her judgement, her maturity and her loyalty—and I always will.

In 1993, when I ran for the U.S. Senate in a special election, I asked Barbara to take a leave of absence from my official staff and join my campaign staff. As I told her at the time, her participation in my Senate campaign provided me with a comfort level that I would not have enjoyed had she not been with me. I lost that campaign, but Barbara's presence made the experience more enjoyable than it would have been without her.

More than most people, Barbara has her priorities straight. While she loves her job, her real joy in life is her family.

Her husband, Bill, deserves canonization for tolerating his wife's long hours and often erratic schedule. Despite that kind of schedule,

Barbara's children and grandchildren always come first, and she is always there for them.

When Bill or Deb Bowes need advice—or a good babysitter for Kelsey or William III—Barbara's there to help. When Susie or "Bo" Wilburn need advice—or a good babysitter for Haley Sue—Barbara's there to help. And when Tom Bowes needs some motherly advice—oftentimes on how to avoid getting into a situation that might, eventually, require a good babysitter—Barbara's there for him as well. And she has also always been there for her parents, C.T. and Harriett Williamsen of Houston.

Barbara Bowes is one of those hardworking women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. She has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank her for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism she has exhibited as a member of my staff.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Barbara Bowes for her years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me in wishing Barbara, and her husband Bill, all the best in the years ahead.

## TRIBUTE TO NINE OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nine outstanding students from my district. These students set their sights high, and as a result, each student received a Congressional Award.

Congressional Awards are given to students who excel in the four program areas, including public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition and exploration. The awards are divided into three categories, based on age, accumulated hours, and duration of activities. It was my privilege to meet these outstanding youths and present them with their awards.

First, Dana Metzler of Kirkwood was awarded the Silver Congressional Award. Ms. Metzler was between the ages of 16 and 18 and had worked a minimum of 420 hours over at least 15 months to earn her award. Ms. Metzler attends Kirkwood High School.

Second, there were eight Bronze Congressional Awards, youths at least 14, who had worked 210 hours over the course of at least 7 months. These honorees included: Taniith Leigh Balaban of Chesterfield, who attends Parkway Central High School; Alyssa Barker of Fenton, who attends Rockwood Summit High School; Kevin Buckley of Bridgeton, who attends Christian Brothers College in Clayton; Kathleen Castello of St. Louis, who attends Rosati-Kain High School; Megan Connolly O'Keefe of Bridgeton, who attends Pattonville

High School; Kathleen Paige of St. John, who attends St. Thomas Aquinas-Mercy High School; Stephanie Schaller of Ballwin, who attends Cor Jesu Academy; and Christopher Slaten of St. Louis, who attends Parkway West of Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to recognize these extraordinary young people for their achievements. Their success is a true reflection not only of their drive and determination, but also on the parents, family members and teachers who have supported their hard work and determination. These students are an excellent example of what young people will achieve when given the opportunity.

## LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY THE APPLICATION OF THE RETAIL TAX ON HEAVY TRUCKS AND TRAILERS

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to both correct existing law as well as practices in the administration of those laws that have proven to be quite burdensome and inefficient.

Currently, a 12-percent excise tax is imposed on heavy trucks, trailers, and tractors. The tax is on trucks weighing over 33,000 pounds, trailers weighing over 26,000 pounds, and all tractors used with a trailer or semitrailer for highway transportation. The IRS has crafted a registration, certification, and reporting regime that imposes a heavy paperwork burden and awkward procedures for proving compliance. Complex regulations and rulings issued over many years have added to the compliance burden.

I am introducing legislation today to remedy the most serious administrative difficulties brought to my attention with the following four proposed changes:

First, to clearly delineate taxable tractor sales and to eliminate uncertainty regarding when there is a tax on an incomplete chassis, my bill would make the tax apply only to tractors with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 33,000 pounds.

Second, similarly, to provide certainty regarding when an article is subject to tax, my bill codifies the clear and unequivocal test put in place by the IRS in Revenue Rule 91-27 which imposes the tax on the restoration of a worn or used truck, tractor, or trailer only where the cost of such restoration work exceeds 75 percent of the price of a comparable new vehicle. My bill expands this sensible test to cover the restoration of wrecked vehicles as well as changes or modifications of a truck's function such as the conversion of a tractor to a straight truck, the lengthening or shortening of a frame, or the addition or subtraction of axles.

Third, to foster greater uniformity in the application of the tax and to provide a more precise measurement of the reduction in tax that

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